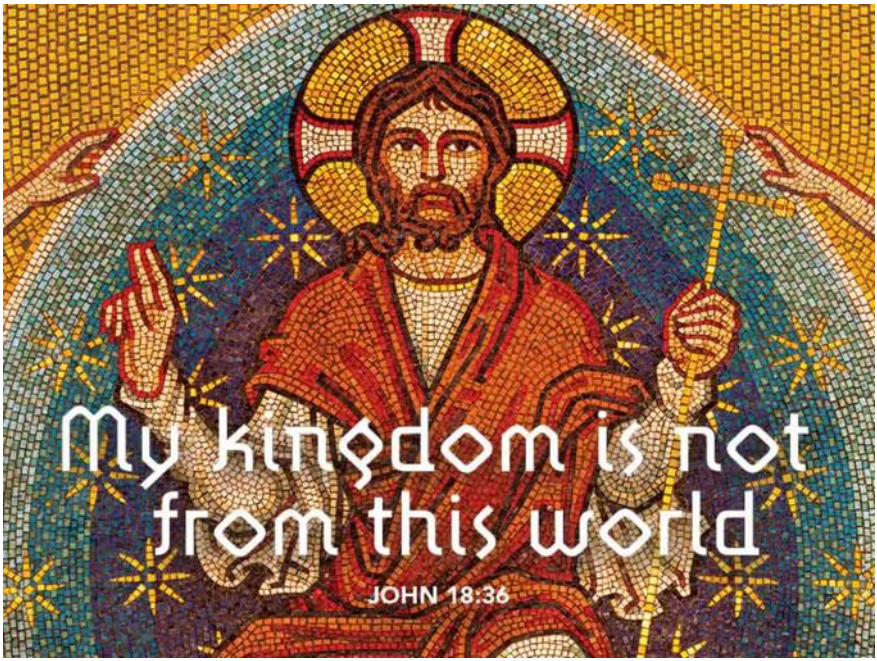

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
November 21, 2021

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
E-mail: office@memluth.org
717-532-4614

Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr
717-532-4614 or 724-989-8106 or pastor@memluth.org
Office hours are Monday and Tuesday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday by appointment

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.

INTRODUCTION
Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

GATHERING

In order to keep us all safe for the time being there will be no singing of the liturgy or the hymns because the spread of the virus is greatly increased by singing.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Pastorale on "Oh Worship the King"* *- Burkhardt*

Please kneel or sit

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one whose love never ends.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:
like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth out of greed and apathy.
Rescue us from our sin, gracious God.
Hear us when we call out for help.
Lead us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. With happy hearts, receive the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

Please stand

GATHERING HYMN *"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*
ELW 435

The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Now redemption, long-expected,
comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.

THIS IS THE FEAST **READ RESPONSIVELY**
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray together.
Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

9 As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his
throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like
pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning
fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A
thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand
stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were
opened. 13 As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human
being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient
One and was presented before him. 14 To him was given dominion and
glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should
serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass
away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 93 READ RESPONSIVELY
1 The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and
armed with strength.
The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

[2]**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;**
you are from everlasting.
[3]The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.
[4]**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,**
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.
[5]Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING **Revelation 1:4b-8**

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

[4b]Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, [5]and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, [6]and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [7]Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. [8]"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia. **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David.
Alleluia. *(Mark 11:9)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 18th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL **John 18:33-37**

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

[33]Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” [34]Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” [35]Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” [36]Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” [37]Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *“O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us”* **ELW 431**

The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.

O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our king? What royal face have you revealed whose praise the church would sing? Aspiring not to glory's height, to power, wealth, and fame, you walked a diff'rent, lowly way, another's will your aim.

You came, the image of our God, to heal and to forgive, to shed your blood for sinners' sake that we might rise and live. To break the law of death you came, the law of love to bring: a diff'rent rule of righteousness, a diff'rent kind of king.

Though some would make their greatness felt and lord it over all, you said the first must be the last and service be our call. O Christ in workplace, church, and home, let none to power cling; for still, through us, you come to serve, a diff'rent kind of king.

You chose a humble human form and shunned the world's renown; you died for us upon a cross with thorns your only crown. But still, beyond the span of years, our glad hosannas ring, for now at God's right hand you reign, a diff'rent kind of king!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community (*local social ministries or agencies may be named*). Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(Everyone is to remain in their pew for the passing of the peace. To share the peace with someone sitting near you, share a slight bow, wave, or cross your arms with hands touching the opposite arm, a gesture of embrace.)

Please be seated

OFFERTORY

The Ushers will collect the offering

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Please stand

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Let us pray together.
Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Read Together*
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of
power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
Heavenly Father, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
(1 Corinthians 11:23b-25)

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION
All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

Please stand

COMMUNION BLESSING
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together.
Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING
God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, + bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *"Soon and Very Soon"* **ELW 439**

The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin; there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Please be seated

POSTLUDE *"Church, Rejoice!"* *- Burkhardt*

DISMISSAL
Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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